

Brent Leaves Shipping Board; Hurley Sworn In

Vice-Chairman's Resignation Accepted, but None Is Chosen for His Place

Goethals Is Silent

Refuses to Discuss Reported Request To Be Sent to France

Washington, July 26.—Reorganization of the Shipping Board proceeded rapidly to-day. The resignation of Theodore Brent, vice-chairman of the board, was accepted by President Wilson, and Edward N. Hurley, of Chicago, was sworn in as a member to succeed William Denman, forced out by the President.

To-morrow the board will elect Mr. Hurley chairman and the board of directors of the Emergency Fleet Corporation will name Rear Admiral Capps to succeed Major General Goethals as the corporation's general manager. Admiral Capps spent an hour to-day conferring with Mr. Hurley and Mr. Denman, and later saw General Goethals.

Acceptance of Mr. Brent's resignation was announced at the offices of the Shipping Board. At the White House it was said no one had been selected to fill his place, but it is understood the President is considering naming a Republican. That, it is believed, would silence any opposition that might develop in the Senate to the confirmation of Bainbridge Colby, whose appointment to the board was held up at the request of the New York Senators.

General Goethals declined to-day to discuss reports that he has asked to be sent to France with the Engineer Corps. It is well known that he wishes to see service at the front.

General Goethals is a member of a New York firm of consulting engineers and still retains his place as an adviser to the New Jersey Road Commission. He will remain here for several days at least to advise Admiral Capps.

Pershing Confers With Allied War Chiefs in Paris

Sims to Advise Balkan Conference on Naval Problems in Aiding Greece

Paris, July 25 (delayed).—While the principal delegates to the conference of the Entente Allies to-day discussed political questions Major General Pershing, commander of the American expedition; General Sir William Robertson, chief of the British Imperial Staff; General Smuts, Minister of Defense of the Union of South Africa; General Foch, chief of the staff of the French Ministry of War; General Count Cadorna, chief of the Italian General Staff, and the other military representatives conferred a long time on the military situation.

Montenegro to Take Part

Montenegro has been invited to take part in the Allied conference, and Eugene Popovitch, Premier and Foreign Minister, will represent his government. "There must be no confusion in today's Balkan conference with that proposed by Russia for the revision of war aims," says the "Journal des Debats," discussing the session which opened yesterday. "If any such question were to be under discussion the United States, which would have much to say, would not have been content to send only an admiral to the deliberations," the newspaper adds. It hopes the eventualities will not make such a conference urgent in the eyes of the Russians, to whom the enemy has spoken vaguely of peace without, however, saying a word about the future of the conquered Russian people. The "Journal des Debats" lays great stress on examining the new situation created by Greece's changed attitude, including the new military situation due to Greece's army of 200,000 and new methods of provisioning Greece, which are largely an affair of tonnage, introducing naval problems that account for Admiral Sims's presence.

Will Not Discuss Peace

Dismissing again rumors that the conference would take up peace aims, the newspaper concludes: "For the moment it is necessary to win. The Paris conference has for its programme the better arranging of ways and means on the Balkan front. That is all, and that is not enough."

"The Times" points out that the conference falls on the third anniversary of Austria's breach with Serbia, which upset all Balkan affairs and unleashed a war that cost the lives of millions of men. The paper then sketches in detail events at the outbreak of the war, their far-reaching consequences and responsibility of such men as Count Tisza and Emperor William and the changed attitude of nearly all of Germany toward war.

Rome, July 26.—The Italian press is displaying intense interest in the Paris conference of the Entente Allies, from the political viewpoint.

Italy's only concern in this connection, says the "Giornale d'Italia," is to secure a permanent settlement of Balkan politics. It denies that any territorial expansion is desired by Italy in that direction, and expresses the hope that Italy's counsels will prevail regarding the possibility of a federation of the Balkan states on a just basis for the Serbs, Rumanians and Bulgars, thus insuring future internal peace in the region and also a strong federation in opposition to the contention in many quarters here is that it is not too late now to win back not only Bulgaria, but particularly Turkey, to the Entente Allies.

Letish Woman Is 119

Copenhagen, July 6.—The takers of the census in the occupied district of Russian Poland have found in a Courland village a Letish woman 119 years old. Church records attest her age. She was fourteen years old when Napoleon's "grand army" marched into Russia.

Two Representatives Accuse Postoffice Of Opening Mail

Even "Sacred" Family Letters Tampered With, Asserts Tague

(From The Tribune Bureau)

Washington, July 26.—Representatives Tague and Dallinger, of Massachusetts, to-day testified before the House Committee on Postoffice Expenditures that their private mail had been repeatedly opened in transit, presumably by officials of the Postoffice Department. Mr. Tague declared letters which he considered "sacred" had thus been tampered with while being forwarded under his own frank as a member of the House of Representatives. He further stated that he had been informed by Democratic State Chairman O'Leary, of Massachusetts, that the postoffice inspection service was on his trail and that an inspector had come to O'Leary and made inquiries about him.

Mr. Tague exhibited one special delivery letter which his secretary had addressed to him at Scituate recently containing official matter. It had been slit open on one side and one end. Two other special delivery letters had been similarly opened, he said.

He declared that last night his secretary in Boston telephoned him that a letter received the day before yesterday had been opened.

Forced to Use Stamps

Mr. Tague testified that the only way he can communicate with his family is to write on plain envelopes and stamp them; otherwise, he stated, the letters are almost invariably opened. Mr. Tague submitted a telegram from a person in high official position in Boston offering to come to Washington and substantiate charges of tampering with the mail. He further suggested that the committee ask Postmaster Murray, of Boston, to produce an anonymous letter directed to the Postoffice inspection service suggesting that he, Mr. Tague, "would bear watching."

The Boston Congressman declared that Postmaster Murray had admitted the receipt of such a letter by Postoffice officials during a recent conversation in Boston.

Mr. Dallinger informed the committee that he had had similar experiences. A registered letter sent out by him had been opened, he stated, and another important document had never reached its destination.

One of his constituents, he said, some time ago complained that several hundreds of his letters had been opened and lists of names of business importance had been disclosed to rival concerns.

Mr. Dallinger testified that he had been involved in a controversy with Postmaster Murray over making Cambridge a separate postoffice. Brought about, he stated, through the miserable service Cambridge received through the Boston office. After he had succeeded in putting a rider on the postoffice appropriation bill effecting this purpose, he said, the Cambridge postmaster had been arrayed against him and had fought his re-election with the greatest vituperation and vindictiveness.

Mr. Dallinger stated he wrote a long account of the controversy to a newspaper friend. The latter, he declared, although it bore his name on the envelope and was properly stamped, was never delivered or returned to him. He then wrote a second letter and registered it, he testified, and this communication was opened.

The testimony of the two Boston Congressmen caused a sensational stir in the committee and among members of the House.

The committee will go to the bottom of the matter in its investigation now under way, it is stated.

Mr. Tague said he believed his mail was tampered with in Washington. He declared that he had never noticed interference with his mail before the pneumatic tube fight in the House. During the contest for the retention of pneumatic tube service in the House, Boston and other cities Mr. Tague opposed the confiscation policy of Postmaster General Burleson, despite every effort of the latter to call him off.

Appeal for Armenians Asked of President

(From The Tribune Bureau)

Washington, July 26.—President Wilson to-day was asked to issue a second proclamation, urging contributions for the relief of destitute Armenians, by Charles V. Vickrey, of New York, and Miran Seavaly, of Boston, representing the Armenian National Union of America. The matter also was discussed with members of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate and the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House.

It was pointed out that the threatened Russian collapse in the Trans-Caucasus may leave about 2,000,000 more Armenians to the same murderous fate at the hands of the Turks as that meted out to their countrymen earlier in the war. Leading Armenians in this country, it was stated, would favor a loan to the Armenian people, instead of the proposed subscription, if that were possible. Armenia, however, it was said, is not a sovereign nation and therefore has no credit.

American Socialists Plan to Send Men To Allied Conference

Chicago, July 26.—The executive committee of the National Socialist party has decided to send delegates to the Socialist conference of the Allied countries, to be held in London August 8, and to a Socialist conference in Russia, it was announced to-night by Adolph Gerner, secretary of the party. Notices have been sent to all local committees to begin the election of delegates at once.

The American Federation of Labor also has been asked to name delegates to the London conference, Mr. Gerner said. He quoted a letter received yesterday from J. Ramsay MacDonald, secretary of the United Socialist Council of Great Britain, asking that the Socialists divide their delegates with the American Federation of Labor.

Mr. MacDonald's letter said further, according to Mr. Gerner, that neither the Labor party nor the Socialists of Great Britain were greatly enthusiastic over the Council of Allied Nations, but agreed to it in the hope that it would be a preliminary to a Socialist conference of all nations, belligerents and neutrals.

Rhondda to Urge Prison for Illegal Food Profiteering

London, July 26.—Lord Rhondda, the food controller, outlining to-day the policy he intends to follow to regulate food prices and eliminate profiteering, said he intended to fix the prices of commodities of prime necessity over which he could obtain effective control, at the consumer.

Every effort would be made to prevent speculation, and unnecessary middlemen would be eliminated. Existing agencies would be utilized for the purpose of distribution under license and under the control and supervision of local food controllers to be appointed by the local authorities.

Where profits were made illegally, Lord Rhondda said, he would press for imprisonment in all cases of sufficient gravity. He proposed to eliminate profiteering by fixing prices on the basis of prewar profits. All flour mills would be taken over and worked on the government account, the flour being sold to bakers at a uniform price, and the bakers being expected to sell loaves over the counter at a maximum of nine pence retail price, and flour at a corresponding rate.

British wheat will be purchased by millers at prices determined by the government, these prices over the year averaging 72 shillings per quarter.

The prices charged to millers for both home and imported wheat would be lower than the cost to the government, and the difference would be made up by a subsidy from the Exchequer. The policy of subsidies was only justifiable because of the impossibility otherwise of reducing the cost of food to the poor.

Maximum prices of cattle would be fixed—74 shillings per hundredweight in September, 72 shillings in October, 67 shillings in November and December, and 60 shillings in January. This would enable the farmers to realize without serious losses and would reduce prices to the consumer.

Dealers and butchers' profits would also be controlled. Retail prices would be fixed by local committees, and arrangements would be made for equitable distribution. The local authorities would be asked to appoint food control committees, including at least one representative of labor and one woman, to carry out the regulations of the Food Controller.

A new scheme of sugar distribution, said Lord Rhondda, would be put into operation, and another important feature of the economy campaign would be the establishment of communal kitchens.

City Destroys Impure Food

219,963 Pounds, With Value of \$30,000, Confiscated

Health Department officials have confiscated and destroyed during the last week 219,963 pounds of impure foodstuffs on sale here, according to a report filed by Lucius P. Brown, director of pure food and drugs, yesterday.

The value of this food is said to be more than \$30,000. It included 79,320 pounds of grapefruit, 71,120 pounds of lemons, 19,922 pounds of ham, 9,543 pounds of beef, 18,500 pounds of salt herring and 4,440 pounds of jelly and jam.

Officials say the condemnation of the food was caused chiefly by faulty packing and poor transportation facilities.

Burbank Out of Danger

Santa Rosa, Cal., July 26.—Luther Burbank, ill at his home here with an inflamed appendix, was out of danger to-day, physicians said.

News in Brief

Edward E. McCall, ex-Public Service Commissioner, is receiver for the capital stock of the Dore Lumber Company, aggregating \$2,300,000, which is involved in the affairs of the Pittsburgh Life and Trust Company of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Catharine J. Amend, a sister of the late Herman Ridder, left Henry Ridder \$15,000; Miss Louise Ridder, \$500; Mrs. Herman Ridder, \$7,000; and Bernard M. Victor and Joseph Ridder, nephews, \$3,000 each.

Leon Rothler will sing "Our Flag in France" at the concert to be given Monday evening in the Manhattan Opera House for La Mutualite Maternelle, of Paris.

Emile Frances Bauer, author of the song, will give the royalties to the American Ambulance Hospital in Paris.

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Board to Enforce Federal Food Law In State Favored

Legislators Leave Local Problem for City to Solve

Prices to Drop in Fall

Hoarding Caused the Recent Sharp Rise, Declares Wholesale Grocer

When the legislative committee investigating food price conditions here received word from Washington yesterday that Herbert C. Hoover, National Food Administrator, would not be able to confer with the committee here, the body discontinued its City Hall sessions and left for Albany. On Tuesday Senator Elton R. Brown, the chairman, telegraphed to Washington the committee's request for a conference with Mr. Hoover.

While the hearings here are considered to have been unproductive of constructive suggestion for state food legislation, the committee has been able to decide upon a course of action. It expects to frame a bill creating a commission empowered to carry out in the state the provisions of the Federal food bill as it is finally enacted.

Local Problem Unsolved

"Such a state measure is believed to be all that is required to effect necessary reforms," said one of the committee members yesterday. "The national government has indicated its desire for state cooperation in the matter of food regulation. Some state machinery will be necessary to carry out the provisions of the Federal law, and to provide such machinery, it seems to the committee, is the best the state can do. There undoubtedly is a serious local distribution problem, but this is a matter for the city to take care of."

Several members of the committee are in favor of a provision empowering the projected commission to purchase and sell produce to retailers and consumers in cases of special necessity.

Further consideration will be given this feature.

The best news that came to the small audience of thirty-five interested persons who attended the hearing in City Hall was the reassurance of Walter B. Timms, of the Wholesale Grocers' Association, that prices to-day are on the downward trend and that by fall they will be much lower. Mr. Timms credited the recent sharp rise in food products to panic among the consumers and declared that hoarding on the part of individual buyers had cleaned out jobbers and depleted retailers until prices had automatically soared.

"There has been no shortage in food supplies," said Mr. Timms, "but the sensational stories in newspapers and the general rumor of shortage sent the housewives scurrying to fill the cupboards with non-perishables enough for a whole season. The demand for large individual orders has been unprecedented."

Mr. Timms stated that the small retail dealer of to-day makes but a scant living, and cited the municipal market of Elizabeth, N. J., as the example of a successful experiment with the food question. He urged the committee to recommend no legislation that would interfere in any way with Federal control of the national food problem.

Miss Sophie Irene Loeb, who made a report later, urged the committee to frame a law to provide strict cold storage supervision. She made a plea for the poor people of the city, who, she declared, are starving for the common necessities of life.

Legislators Fail to Find Fault With New York's Wholesale Markets

New potatoes for \$1.50 a barrel of 150 pounds, best quality Georgia peaches for \$2.50 a crate and superfine Arizona canteloupes for \$1.50 a crate were offered for sale to members of the joint legislative committee seeking information regarding New York's food prices when they visited the food distributing section along West and Washington Streets early yesterday morning as guests of the New York Food Distributors' Association.

The lawmakers were personally conducted by Carl W. Kimball and John C. Orcutt, respectively chairman and secretary of the produce men's organization, which has a membership of 50,000 shipping agents, jobbers, wholesalers and retailers who handle the city's food supply.

The trip was arranged by Mr. Kimball to demonstrate the high standard of organization achieved by the food men in the difficult task of keeping the city supplied with food.

The prices quoted to the legislators were wholesale prices and the opportunity to buy at such quotations came to them in their capacity as guests of the association. As uninitiated citizens they would have had to purchase the potatoes, peaches and canteloupes at retail prices varying from 5 cents per pound for the potatoes on Madison Avenue to 3½ cents on Second Avenue, and at similarly higher prices for the fruit.

Cabbages which were quoted at 7 cents a head, the distributors admitted, probably would cost 15 cents a head at any middle class retail store.

Neutrals Continue Trade in Foods With Germany

They Are Said To Be Unhurt by Embargo of the United States

Agreements Awaited

Swiss to Enjoy Preferred Treatment; Dutch Mission on Way Here

(From The Tribune Bureau)

Washington, July 26.—Holland and the Scandinavian countries are continuing their commerce in foodstuffs with Germany, it was said at the State Department to-day. It was also asserted that these neutral countries are not suffering from the total denial to them of foodstuffs from the United States, under the refusal of the Exports Council to issue export licenses to them during the last eleven days.

Officials declined to indicate how long the embargo would last, but there is a belief that the resources of the neutral countries affected are sufficient to support them for a considerable time; and this fact gives the United States a fair opportunity to take stock of its food supplies and also to check up on the available supplies in the neutral countries desiring to purchase here.

The State Department asked all the European neutrals to furnish information concerning their supplies of foodstuffs, but others professed not to have them; and it is possible that the delay entailed in their compilation may affect the whole export situation as it relates to neutrals.

Switzerland, however, will enjoy preferred treatment, the Swiss government having organized a special body for the control of imports, and satisfactory guarantees have been given by Switzerland that commodities bought in America will not be reexported to Germany.

France and Switzerland have negotiated an agreement whereby Switzerland enjoys a free port in France. The arrangement prescribes the amount of Swiss products that may be exported to Germany in exchange for German coal.

All the statistics furnished by the other neutral countries will be compared by the Exports Council with the figures in its own possession and others furnished by the Allied governments representing the trade between the neutral countries and Germany.

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